

Claims:

1. A method of operating a telecommunications system, comprising:
 - sending a first metadata file from a network device to an external management system;
 - generating a first management data file within the network device;
 - sending the first management data file from the network device to the external management system; and
 - processing the first management data file in accordance with the first metadata file.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first management data file is generated asynchronously with respect to the processing of the first management data file.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first management data file is generated synchronously with respect to the processing of the first management data file.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first metadata file is a JAVA class file.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the first metadata file and first management data file from the network device to the external management system comprises:

 sending the first metadata file and first management data file from the network device to an external file transfer system.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the first management data file comprises:
executing a file transfer protocol push.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein sending a first metadata file comprises: executing a file transfer protocol push.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending the second management data file from the second network device to the external management system; and

processing the second management data file in accordance with the second metadata file.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

adding a hardware module to the network device;

downloading a second metadata file to the network device corresponding to the hardware module;

sending the second metadata file from the network device to the external management system;

generating a second management data file within the network device;

sending the second management data file from the network device to the external management system; and

processing the second management data file in accordance with the second metadata file.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

downloading a modified first metadata file to the network device;

sending the modified first metadata file from the network device to the external management system;

generating a second management data file within the network device;

sending the second management data file from the network device to the external management system; and

processing the second management data file in accordance with the modified first metadata file.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the external management system comprises a data collector server.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the external management system comprises a network manager server.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the external management system comprises a billing server.
18. A method of operating a telecommunications system, comprising:
 - sending a first plurality of metadata files from a first network device to an external management system;
 - generating a first plurality of management data files within the first network device;
 - sending the first management data files from the first network device to the external management system; and
 - processing each of the first management data files in accordance with a corresponding one of the first metadata files.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein the first management data files are generated asynchronously with respect to the processing of the first management data files.
20. The method of claim 18, wherein the first management data files are generated synchronously with respect to the processing of the first management data files.
21. The method of claim 18, wherein the first metadata files are JAVA class files.
22. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
 - sending a second plurality of metadata files from a second network device to the external management system;
 - generating a second plurality of management data files within the second network device;
 - sending the second management data files from the second network device to the external management system; and

28. The telecommunications system of claim 27, wherein the metadata file comprises a JAVA class file.

00T80" 008/E960